

Central European winners announced!

Best business models or top entrepreneurs awarded up to 10 000 euros

Budapest, 10 November 2017

EIT Health and EIT RawMaterials transfer business skills to innovative entrepreneurs with a special focus on Central and Eastern Europe with the final pitches and an award ceremony for the winners of a business plan competition has taken place in Budapest, Hungary

The winner of the health care session was a project called *Fidens* aiming to reduce Essential hand tremor for people with Parkinson's disease. Mantas Venslauskas, the inventor from Lithuania, showcased his first prototype, *ViLim* ball, and his goal is to improve this prototype and create a wearable device for long-term hand tremor stabilization.

In the category of "Recycling and circular economy", the project *RoSi* was rewarded with a first price. Based on proprietary technology, the French team represented by Yun Luo provides complete solutions for recycling Silicon for PV & FBR-Silicon producers.

In the raw materials session on "Going beyond discoveries and intelligent mine", Polish inventor Pawel Kawalec was the winner with his project *Augmented Quarry*, an idea that ensures safety and improves efficiency of mining in a sustainable way by real time data visualization for swift decision-making. And the first price in the category "Substitution of critical and toxic material" was won by Fedir Pankov, inventor of *BioGOLD*, coming from Ukraine, who developed a biotechnological process for the extraction of precious metals leaching from refractory gold ores with the intent of substituting toxic cyanidation process.

Besides, for the tools and resources needed to their business growth, the winners are provided further tailor-made support by the KICs and the EIT's network of partners. "Companies fostering sustainable growth need high quality and tailor-made support to become competitive on the market and attract investment" – Balázs Fürjes, regional director of EIT Health InnoStars, member of the jury said. – "The organisation's outstanding business and technology network, as well as its achievements so far put EIT in an exceptional position to help these promising entrepreneurs in entering the international market and thriving. With EIT's assistant these start-ups are provided the opportunity for international networking, which enables them to learn from and make good use of the best practices shared by other successful companies."

"And EIT RawMaterials aims to significantly enhance innovation rates in the mineral and metallic raw materials sector. If an idea or project fits into our innovation scope and promises to contribute to our overall objectives, we offer any support needed in order to bring novel solutions successfully to the market!" – added Giorgio Recine, Business Developer and organiser of the respective raw materials related part of the call.

“In cooperation with 1000 partners from business, education and research, the EIT Community has already incubated more than 2,200 business ideas and created over 300 innovative start-ups.” – Katerina Sereti, Stakeholder Relations Officer at the EIT, said. – “To boost Europe’s ability to innovate, we will continue to support Europe’s talented entrepreneurs, helping them to turn their best ideas into products, services and jobs for Europe.”

EIT Health and EIT RawMaterials, two of the EIT’s Innovation Communities organised for the first time a joined Business Idea and Plan Competition under the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme.

Following two bootcamps in Tartu and Budapest during summer 2017, entrepreneurs mainly from the Central and Eastern European region were invited by EIT based on their business plans developed to the final pitches and the following award ceremony. Held in Budapest, on November 7th, the juries selected the winners of business ideas and plans finding solutions to challenges we face, from healthy living and active ageing to raw materials.

Participants were eligible predominantly, but by no means exclusively from countries included in the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS), boosting innovation capacities in Central, Eastern and South European Countries. The idea is to provide a unique cross-industry environment and ultimately create ‘innovation awareness’ both in and towards those countries by including them into the regular activity focus of the KICs. This is in particular relevant for the Central and South Eastern countries where the KICs want to create respective impact on innovativeness by trying to demonstrate the advantages of joint discussions with colleagues from other industries and countries.

The winners:

Category: Health

1. Mantas Venslauskas – Lithuania; project: Fidens – A device for treatment of blood circulatory disorders and hands shake stabilizer for Parkinson's disease
2. Sándor Urszin – Hungary; project: Clavicont – Early detection of Parkinson's disease
3. Alar Aints – Estonia; project: Kvintest – Endometriosis and infertility tests

Category: Going beyond discoveries and intelligent mine

1. Pawel Kawalec – Poland/Switzerland; project: Augmented Quarry – Real time data visualization for swift decision-making
2. Roman Slobodyanyuk – Ukraine; project: ROTATE – Round-trip haulage for open pit mines
3. Constantin Weigel – Germany; project: EHUAV – Application of a Drone for Hang-Up Handling in Multi-Level Underground Mining

Category: Recycling and circular economy

1. Yun Luo – France; project: RoSi – Silicon recycling from Photovoltaic wafer production sludge
2. Andreas Bittner – Germany; project: e-Top – Electrohydraulic Treatment of Photovoltaics
3. Lukas Haedicke – Austria; project: AMR – Advanced Metal Refinery

Category: Substitution of critical and toxic material, optimization of processes

1. Fedir Pankov – Ukraine; project: BioGOLD – Substitution of toxic cyanidation processes
2. Alberto Abanades – Spain; project: DECARGAS – Decarbonization of fossil resources for the direct production of pure graphitic carbon and hydrogen
3. Anrin Bhattacharyya – Austria; project: RECYRON – Recycling of Integrated Steel Plant Wastes for Iron Production

Background Information

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is a European initiative bringing together leading universities, research and companies in order to spur innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe. Founded in 2008 and based in Budapest, Hungary, the EIT has created Europe's largest innovation ecosystem with around 1000 excellent partners from business, research and education, organized in six innovation communities spanning over 30 innovation hubs across Europe. More than 50% of partners are from business (industry, SMEs and start-ups), while there is a strong presence of higher education institutions, research centres as well as cities, regions or NGOs, thus creating a unique environment for entrepreneurs and innovators to inspire each other, work together, learn, innovate and prosper.

The strategies set by EIT are put into practice by currently six Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) focusing on climate change (EIT Climate), information and communication technologies (EIT Digital), sustainable energy (EIT InnoEnergy), healthy living and active ageing (EIT Health), sustainable raw material strategies (EIT RawMaterials) and food innovation and production (EIT Food). KIC activities cover the entire innovation chain from training and education, research-to-market up to starting new companies and training a new generation of entrepreneurs.

More info: <https://eithealth.eu>, <https://eitrawmaterials.eu>.

Within the framework of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) the Innovation Communities engage and work with organizations, researchers, students and entrepreneurs from European countries and regions that do not directly benefit from the EIT Community activities and that particularly belong to the groups of so-called 'modest and moderate' innovators.

More info: <https://eit.europa.eu/activities/outreac/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris>

EIT Health is one of the largest healthcare initiatives worldwide. The network of partners has the goal of supporting innovation in healthcare, in order to improve the sustainability of healthcare systems, promote healthy living and active ageing and enhance the overall wellbeing of people across Europe. EIT Health leverages the expertise of nearly 140 leading organisations from key areas of healthcare, such as pharma, medtech, payers, ICT, diagnostics and consumer products, as well as some of the world's leading academic and research organisations, healthcare providers and public administrations.

EIT RawMaterials is the largest and strongest consortium in the raw materials sector worldwide. Its vision is a European Union where raw materials are a major strength. Its mission is to boost competitiveness, growth and attractiveness of the European raw materials sector via radical innovation and guided entrepreneurship. EIT RawMaterials unites more than 100 partners – academic and research institutions as well as businesses – from more than 20 EU countries. They collaborate on finding new, innovative solutions to secure the supplies and improve the raw materials sector all along its value chain – from extraction to processing, from recycling to reuse. EIT RawMaterials will generate a significant impact on European competitiveness and employment by driving and fostering innovation and empowering students, entrepreneurs and education partners driving toward the circular economy.

How to get in touch:

Dóra Marosvölgyi

InnoSTARS Financial Project Manager

EIT Health	T: +36 30 347 8477
Neumann Janos u. 1/E	E: dora.marosvolgi@eithealth.eu
1117 Budapest Hungary	W: www.eithealth.eu

Dr. Markus Klein

Business Developer Co-Location Centre East

EIT RawMaterials GmbH	T: +49 173 66 23 468
Europa Center	E: markus.klein@eitrawmaterials.eu
Taurentzienstr. 11	W: www.eitrawmaterials.eu
10789 Berlin Germany	

Satellite Office:
Neumann Janos u. 1/E
1117 Budapest | Hungary

Andrea Koszti

PR Manager

Árpád út 45.	T: +36 30 993 4872
1042 Budapest Hungary	E: andrea@kosztipr.com